Prairie Fire

an independent
community newsweekly

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Vol.1 No.8 Regina , Sask. Nov.25 — Dec.2 — 1969

HOSPITAL CRISIS DEEPENS

Provincial government policies are a major cause of the present impasse in hospital negotiations, according to a brief presented to the government this week.

Non-medical employees of St. Joseph's Hospital in Estevan have been on strike since Oct. 24. Employees at Victoria Union Hospital in Prince Albert went on strike Nov. 16. Employees of at least 10 other Saskatchewan hospitals are impatiently awating the outcome of the Estevan negotiations

The brief, presented by the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour, states that "We are at a complete loss to understand why the government refused to honour financially the unanimous decision of a government-appointed conciliation board, thus causing rejection of the report by the local hospital board."

If the conciliation board decision were accepted, municipal authorities would be forced to make one of three "unfair and harmful choices", the brief says.

They could "raise already high and discriminatory municipal taxes, cut service and create unemployment at the expense of the sick and the employees, or place the entire burden on the backs of the most needy employees.

"Many people were obviously very surprised and unhappy about the choice of supplementary health taxation in the form of utilization fees as a means of reducing service and financing increases in health costs.

"We suspect they will not now be particularly happy to learn that the latest remedies for Federal-Provincial health cost problems are to take the shape of the kind of additional municipal or individual cost choices mentioned above."

Before 1968, hospital employees had a 20-year history of good collective bargaining relations with the hospital board.

But in April, 1968, after refusing to negotiate a contract with the union, the hospital implemented a schedule of wage rates which the union members unanimous rejected.

In November, 1968, the union took the hospital before the Labour Relations Board on a charge of unfair labour practice for failure to bargain collectively. The hospital was found guilty and was instructed to negotiate with the union. The hospital appealed this decision through the Court of Queen's Bench. The appeal was dismissed, and in February of this year the court again ordered the hospital board to bargain with the union.

Negotiations began, but the parties were unable to reach an agreement. On May 7 the union members voted 94 percent in favour of striking. Further efforts by the union did not change the hospital position, so the strike date was set for June 5.

This union decision was quickly followed by the hospital applying to the minister of labour for a board of conciliation, which was set up. The union agreed to postpone the strike so that the conciliation board could be constituted.

In the period from Aug.26 to Sept. 19, the board held nine meetings and submitted a unanimous recommenda-

(Continued on page 7)

Hospital workers display solidarity in the face of government pressure.

THATCHER RESPONDS TO U.S. PRESSURE

By JEFF GOODMAN

The Provincial Government announced early last week that it definitely will establish a floor price, an overall production limit and production pro-rationing for the province's potash industry.

The announcement made official what everyone has been expecting for the past few months. The government will set up a "Potash Conservation Board" to put the production limit and pro-rationing into effect, with legislation on the floor price to follow in the near future.

The announcement also makes it clear -- for anyone requiring confirmation--that Premier Ross Thatcher's plan for the potash industry is the least rational alternative of all those that were open to him.

The combined effect of the regulations will be:

1) to threaten jobs and production in the province;

2) to increase the cost of fertilizer to farmers;

3) to put a brake on royalty revenues the province gets from potash sales; and

4) to make survival more difficult for the three more or less Canadian-owned firms that are beginning or soon to begin production.

According to Mr. Thatcher the regulations are necessary to stabilize conditions in the potash industry, which has been marked by over-production, excess capacity, and fierce price competition.

Without the regulations, Thatcher and other government officials claim, the U.S. government would have imposed a tariff on Saskatchewan potash. This, they say, would have resulted in the loss to Saskatchewan producers of much of their U.S. market, the loss to the province of some of its potash royalties, and the loss of many jobs in the potash mines here.

Government spokesmen have further claimed that even were the U.S. not to impose a tariff, continued price competition among the mining companies here would most likely drive some of them out of business, again endangering jobs and royalties.

In fact, however, the effects which the Premier says he is trying to avert are precisely the effects which his regulations will have.

The only beneficiaries of the regulations will be the large American corporations operating here and their counterparts in New Mexico.

Probably the most significant parts of Thatcher's plan are the minimum price and the limit on overall potash production in the province.

Under the minimum price plan, potash producers will be prohibited from selling their ore at less than $18.75 per ton -- more than 50% above the price currently being charged.

The production limit, which will come into effect in Jan., 1970, will keep Saskatchewan's total potash output at 55%-60% of the capacity of its mines. This compares to output in 1968 of about 80% and for the current year of about 63% of capacity.

With the limit in effect, production in 1970 and 1971 will be about 56% of total capacity.

The effect on the province's three partly-Canadian companies will come through the pro-rationing scheme. Pro-rationing laws allocate to each producing company a fixed share of the total production in the province, based on each company's *established markets*. The total output is divided up among the producers, with the lion's share going to those firms that *already* have substantial markets.

✱ EDITORIAL: ✱

PANTHERS' STRUGGLE JUST

Last week three members of the Black Panther Party were in Regina.

They were harassed by Canadian Immigration officials, discussed in the House of Commons, and severely attacked by the Leader Post on its editorial page of last Friday.

A doctrine of hate and violence has been practiced by the white power structure in the United States against the Black people for the last 400 years --not the other way around, as the Leader Post would have us believe.

A week ago Monday, the Panthers buried a member of their Chicago chapter. He had been savagely murdered by the Chicago Police, and he died with over 34 bullets in his body.

The editorial writers of the Leader Post have absolutely no historical perspective or understanding with respect to the present situation for Blacks in the U.S. If they do have knowledge of this situation, they are suppressing it.

The Panthers' basic program is one of changing a society that is violent towards its minorities into one that is controlled by the people. They connect Marxist-Leninist theory with practice. They sponsor a free hot breakfast for children--for all children, regardless of race or creed. The Panthers operate 22 hot breakfast programs for children across the U.S. In Chicago alone, they feed over 1500 children a week. The Panthers also conduct classes in conjunction with their breakfast program.

Another Party activity conducted by the Panthers is free medical clinics for the poor. In both of these practices, they show the people there is another way --a positive way, a way out of poverty and early death.

The power structure answers the pleas of the poor in the U.S. with degrading and insufficient welfare programs that do not solve any of their problems, and with guns. It has misused the law and has trumped up charges in an attempt to stop the leadership of the Panthers from changing this.

This type of oppression, plus the fact that the Police are murdering Blacks in the streets and in their homes, is the reason that the Panthers are armed and know how to use their weapons in their self-defence.

The Black Panthers see the only alternative to the present social system of the U.S. as being a complete change of that system, the creation of a socialist form of government which gives real political power to the many people who now have no control over their own lives.

Contrary to what the Leader Post would like to have us believe, the Black Panthers understand socialism very well, and they understand that it is the only way to survive.

Little children realize that it is not the capitalist society that feeds them hot breakfast in the morning, and that it is not capitalism that cures them when they are sick.

Evil has been spread among the Indians and Metis of this country for hundreds of years by white men in the same way that evil has been spread by white men among the Blacks in the U.S.

Physical conditions in the north of Saskatchewan rival the worst in southern Alabama or Mississippi. Racist Department of Natural Resources officials, Mounted Police, priests and local government authorities rule the north like slave masters.

They transport Indians out of northern settlements--i.e., Montreal Lake--into urban slums and depressed areas, such as in Moose Jaw. They pass fishing regulations that hurt the native population after white mink ranchers have fished out the lakes.

They cut the native people off welfare to make them work on dehumanizing jobs at wages below welfare level. They arrest the native people, jail them, physically terrorize them.

One wonders about the competence of the Leader Post in accepting a deliberate DNR masquerade in the Cochin Park case. All the "happy workers" the Leader Post saw there had been pulled out of the bush earlier that day and "put to work" for the benefit of visiting press and government officials. An hour after the visitors had left, the happy workers were trucked back into the bush.

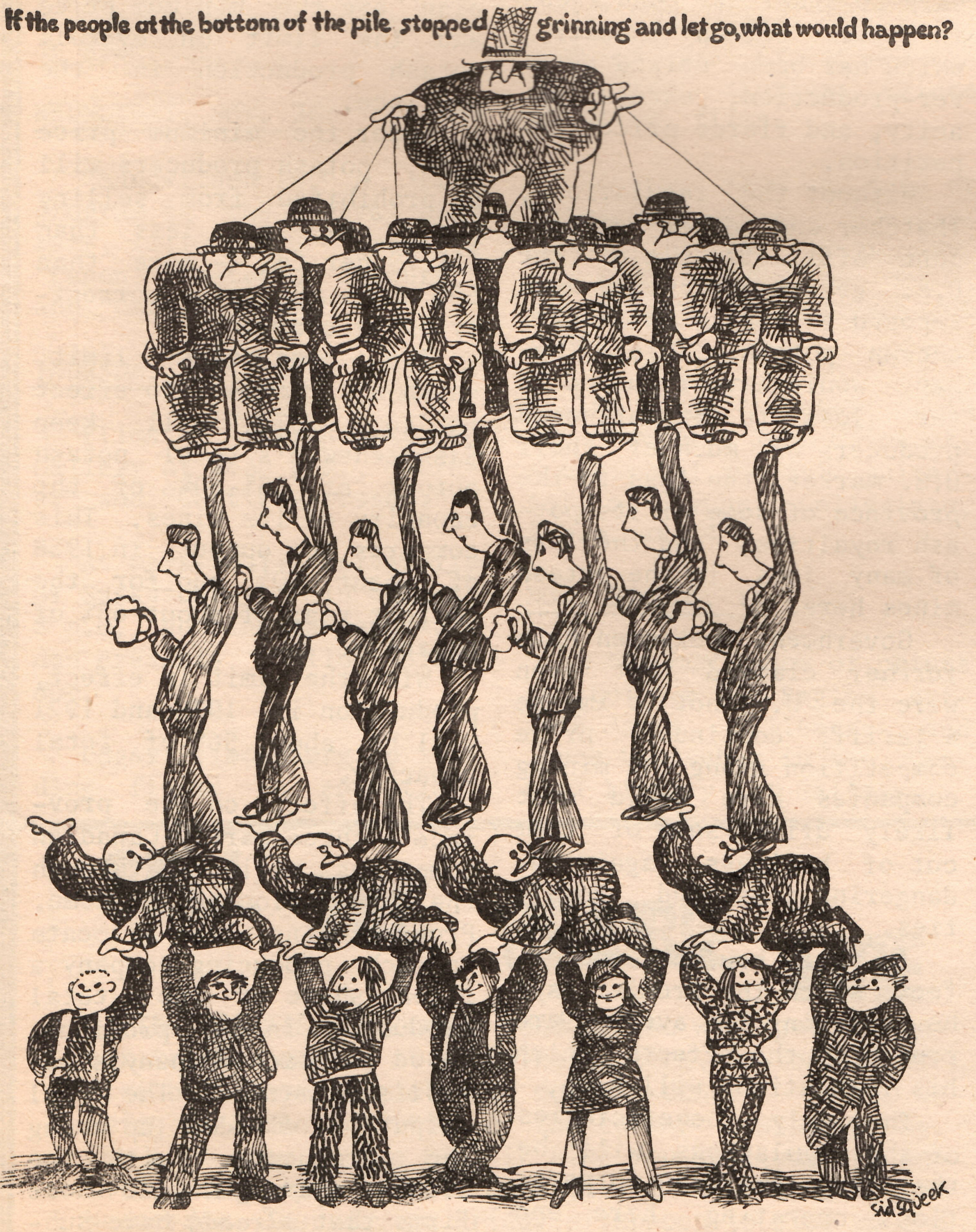
No wonder that last year Indians dynamited a DNR boat, after the new fishing regulations were set.

What the Indians and Metis hopefully learned from the Panthers is that it is possible to control one's destiny, and if white racist capitalists stand in the way and use terror, then it is only natural to defend oneself--by whatever means necessary.

"Decent, law-abiding citizens" of Regina became involved with the Panthers and supported their just struggles, because they see that Reginans, too, do not control their own destinies.

They are not deceived by the distortions of the Leader Post and can see clearly that the doctrine of hate and violence comes from the ruling class, not the people.

If the people at the bottom of the pile stopped grinning and let go, what would happen?



THE PRAIRIE FIRE

The PRAIRIE FIRE is published weekly on Tuesdays by The Regina Community Media Project, a non-profit organization. Mailing address is 2640 Angus Boulevard, Regina. Office phone is 527-8340.

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SFL BRIEF PRESENTED

By SANDY CAMERON

The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour has asked the Thatcher government to live up to its promises to deal with the serious economic depression facing Saskatchewan residents.

In its annual brief to the government, released this week, the SFL notes that the government promised public construction and other projects to improve provincial services and the lives of Saskatchewan citizens in the event of a drop in employment or a slump in private construction and other activity.

"We would now strongly urge that the time has arrived to bolster provincial goods and services production and purchasing power by deficit financing of employment-creating public projects and services," the SFL brief says.

Citing Dominion Bureau of Statistics figures, the SFL brief states that:

"While the official DBS measure shows the rate of unemployment as a percentage of the total labour force over the past year to be somewhat lower in Saskatchewan than in some other provinces, it also shows a rise of close to 75% above what the rate was in 1966....

"Moreover, the rate of unemployment in Saskatchewan is understated by the DBS.

"For example, if the very substantial segment of farm members of the Saskatchewan labour force who normally exhibit a negligible rate of unemployment were to be excluded from the DBS calculations and if the same data for other provinces were to be similarly adjusted, Saskatchewan's unemployment rate would be much higher than it now appears in relation to the rates of other provinces."

The SFL says the reasons for unemployment are the crisis in agricultural marketing, the drop in retail sales, the slump in potash sales and the "sharp decline in general construction."

The publicly-financed projects proposed by the SFL to overcome the situation include the following:

--Construction of subsidized public housing;

--Construction of accommodations for the elderly;

--Construction of new hospitals;

--Construction of added university and technical school facilities and student housing;

--Provision of modern facilities with the consent and co-operation of Indians and Metis on the reserves and other places where they live;

--Spreading of work and increased purchasing power by immediately reducing hours, while maintaining the same take-home pay, to 40 hours per week in the cities and to 44 hours in smaller centres;

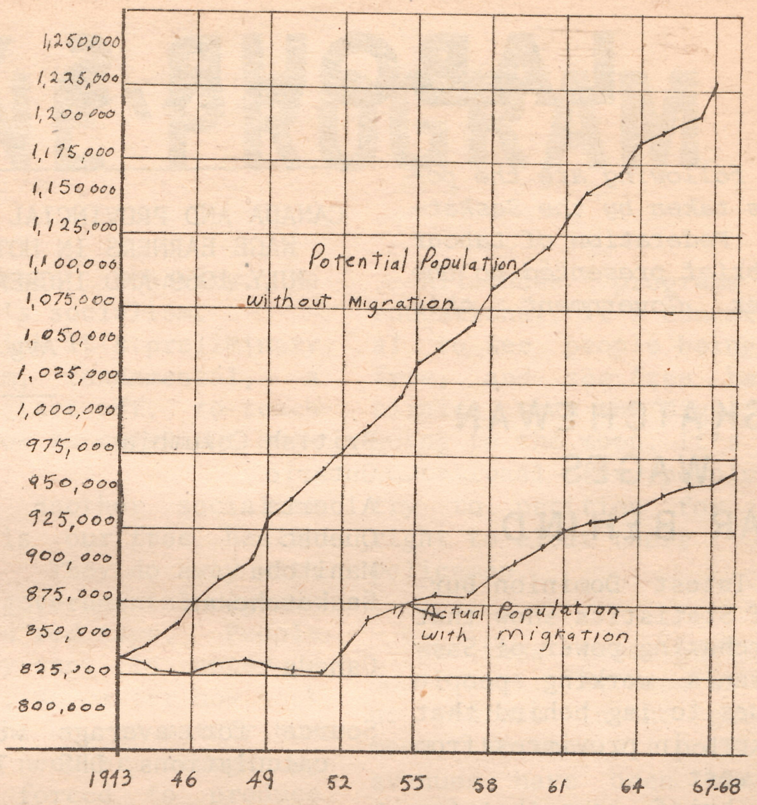
--Increasing of upgrading classes for tradesmen and unemployed workers;

--Provision of winter works incentives to stimulate the economy immediately.

"The time is also ripe for pressure to be brought to bear on the federal government and for co-operation with our neighbouring provinces with a view to obtaining federal assistance and joint action in creating employment opportunities," the SFL brief continues.

Federal action should be sought to include the immediate introduction of a winter works program to replace the scheme cancelled last year.

The wide-ranging brief, presented on behalf of the 46,000 Canadian Labour Congress members in the province, was discussed with the Thatcher Cabinet Monday by a delegation of labour representatives led by SFL President Bill Gilbey.



Saskatchewan is a net exporter of people if nothing else. The graph shows how the province's population growth is severely hampered each year because of migration. If there were jobs and other opportunities here maybe the people would stay.

COOP CHALLENGED

Two members of Sherwood Co-op Association have filed a suit in the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal to compell the Board of Directors to call a special membership meeting.

Former board member Dallas Smythe and longtime Sherwood member Bartlett Humbert are the plaintiff in a representative suit against the present Board.

In a prepared statement released by co-chairman of the Committee of Concerned Co-operators (CCC) Myron Kuziak said the court action by Smythe and Humbert is on their own behalf and on the behalf of the more than 100 Sherwood members who are members of the CCC. The Committee has been trying since Sept. 25 to have the Board call a special meeting to consider matters of vital concern to the Association.

Sherwood Board has rejected two earlier petitions by the CCC to have the meeting called. Both petitions had over the 100 Sherwood members' signatures, as required under the Co-operative Associations Act to request a special membership meeting.

The President of Sherwood Board, Norm Kennedv, rejected the petition for a meeting stating that "....not any of the matters requested will fall within the requirements of Section 57 of the Co-operative Act."

Through the court action, initiated by Smythe and Humbert, the CCC is challenging the Board's decision by arguing that the decision contradicts the provisions of Sec. 57 of the act.

Section 57 of the act outlines the procedure to follow in calling a special membership meeting.

The statement released by the CCC said that in the reason given for not calling the meeting, "the Board is saying that Sec. 57 does not protect the right of members of a Cooperative Association on their own motion, to call their Board members to acount."

The committee believes that the act prevents "just the kind of situation which the Board of Directors has created."

An Oct. 27 meeting of close to 400 co-operators recommended taking court action if necessary to force the meeting of Sherwood shareholders and members.

FLAT WATER RATE CONSIDERED

Regina City Council is considering a flat water rate, despite the fact that with its present structure, it is unweildly and costly.

A flat water rate would require all apartment occupants to pay a set amount per month regardless of how much water they actually use. It would entail the installation of special meters and additional manpower would be required to assess the monthly readings.

The city feels that a flat rate would bring in much needed revenue. One method of implementing this would cost $35 per unit, for a total estimated cost of $248,000. The yeild to the city would amount to approximately $85,000 annually.

The proposed plan, after examination, was sent back to the City Planning and Engineer Department for further study.

The plan is going to run into opposition from the Regina Renter's Council.

"Any increase in rent at this time can only be considered as an attempt to undermine efforts to achieve economic equity", Joe McKeown told the PRAIRIE FIRE.

An emergency meeting of the executive of the Renters Council was held last Sunday and a letter expressing the renters' opposition of the plan was sent to the City Council.

The renters of Regina will oppose the instigation of such a plan and maintain that the City Council cannot put such a device into operation against the wishes of the people.

LABOUR,S VIEW OF SASK.

The following are the positions taken by the Saskat-CHEWAN Federation of Labour in a brief presented to the Thatcher Government this week.

SASKATCHEWAN WAGES FAR BEHIND

The latest Dominion Bureau of Statistics show that the purchasing power of Saskatchewan's working people continues to lag behind that of workers in provinces from Quebec west.

The brief says that for several years the SFL has tried to point up the broad detrimental economic and social effects that can arise from mistaken public policies in labour-management relations.

The tables below show the "great danger" to the whole community as well as to employees that can arise from a policy of collective bargaining restrictions and wage restraints.

If Saskatchewan salaries were brought up to the Canadian average, the total annual purchasing power in the province would be increased by $140,000,000.

CANADA AND PROVINCIAL AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES OF HOURLY RATED WAGE EARNERS IN HOTELS, RESTAURANTS AND TAVERNS-JULY 1969 AND INCREASES FROM JULY 1964 - JULY 1969

	Avg. Wkly. Wages July 1969	Increase July 1964-July 1969
British Columbia	$ 61.43	$ 9.08
Ontario	51.64	4.78
Alberta	54.26	10.64
Quebec	52.64	5.84
Manitoba	49.25	6.90
Saskatchewan	49.86	4.17
Canada	53.50	7.24

Source for average weekly wages and basis for "increase" calculations, DBS - 72504 and 72003.

CANADA AND PROVINCIAL AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES AND SALARIES-JULY 1969 AND INCREASES FROM JULY 1964 - JULY 1969

	Avg. Wkly. Wage & Salary, July 1969	Increase July 1964-July 1969
British Columbia	$ 131.44	$ 37.53
Ontario	122.26	32.36
Alberta	119.62	34.47
Quebec	115.38	30.77
Manitoba	110.15	30.61
Saskatchewan	108.57	26.83
Canada	118.56	32.00

Source for average weekly wages and salaries and basis for "increase" calculations, DBS - 72504 and 72002.

BILL 35 HUMAN RIGHTS

Passage of Bill 35 by the Thatcher government in the last session of the legislature was termed "grossly premature."

The government had already established a comittee to review labour-management relations, and the committee was at the time studying areas covered by the bill, the SFL brief says.

Bill 35 provides that during a strike that an employer or employee can after 30 days, call for a vote by the union on whether or not it will accept the employer's last offer.

It also makes it an offence for a worker to refuse to load or unload any goods or equipment delivered at a strike location unless the union is in dispute with the carrier.

The Bill also changes the definition of employee to exclude individual contractors, and refuse rights under the Trade Union Act including the right to collective bargaining. This excludes many workers such as taxi or truck drivers.

" The provisions of Bill 35 were restrictive and in general moved in precisely the opposite direction" laid out by Federal Task Force on labour that reported this year.

Establishment of a Human Rights Commission with power and personnel to effectively research the need for additional anti-discrimination law, recommend improvements in existing provisions and properly administer and enforce the law, was called for in the brief.

" Both Indian and Metis and disadvantaged whites require special information, education and training and other assistance programs aimed at bridging the economic and cultural gap between their existing conditions and what is required for them for effective integration into the mainstream of the community."

The white community should encourage and support the efforts of native people to revive their own culture and improve their standard of living, including a program for northern economic development, scholarships with no strings attached, funds for legal aid and a comprehensive program run by Indians and Metis aimed at preparing those who are entering industry and the world of the white man.

" We would also reiterate our earlier request that Saskatchewan establish the office of Ombudsman."

GOVERNMENT THREATENS ESTABLISHED BENEFITS

"We regret at a time when Canada as a whole is moving towards an extension of good faith free bargaining with a view to improvement in labour-management relations " that the Thatcher government is creating an atmosphere leading to fear on the part of employers by proposals to terminate or take out of the scope of bargaining, valued employee benefits that have been in effect for many years.

One example cited in the brief is a "particularly objectionable " proposal to eliminate the automatic payment of increments involved in classification pay ranges.

This would tend to reduce public service morale as this practice is being carried on in government and Crown corporation negotiations.

POLLUTION

" While we agree with those who say...that water pollution is a more urgent immediate problem in Saskatchewan than is air and land pollution, the importance of those aspects of pollution prevention should not be downgraded."

The province should vigorously promote co-operation and co-ordination between the provinces and the federal government with the aim of establishing a nationally effective program at the earliest possible date, the brief says.

" We think it important that labour and industry be consulted in the anti-pollution policy formulation and program planning.

" We believe that effective planning and execution of policy requires the direct utilization of the services of professionals qualified in all of the relevant

WAGE FREEZE

The "recurring use by the government of the device of the wage freeze" stands condemned on numerous counts, the brief says.

" By itself it leaves the distinct impression of an absence of any desire for good faith in bargaining and commends similar tactics to other employers.

" But when combined with the threat of legislations such as the Essential Services Emergency Act, little or nothing is left of collective bargaining except the claim that the right still exists."

ACTION URGED

The Thatcher government is asked to "remove from the legal and administrative framework for industrial relations " the following features working against the principles of free collective bargaining:

- Bill 35 ammendments;
- Methods of bargaining involving wage freeze proposals and cutting back of benefits;
- Termination during negotiations of established conditions;
- Rigid financial restraints on hospitals and Other institutions having the effect of preventing free collective bargaining and freezing rates at substandard levels;
- Handling all government negotiations through free collective bargaining procedures;
- Establishment of province-wide hospital bargaining with the provincial government as the employer.

PANTHERS OUTLINE PROGRAM

The following is an exclusive PRAIRIE FIRE interview with Chairman Fred Hampton, of the Black Panther Party. Mr. Hampton was in Regina speaking at student and labour meetings.

Q. Can you tell us about what is happening in the United States, that necessitates your visit to Canada, and what you hope to achieve through your visit here?

A. I think the important thing happening in the United States is the trial of Chairman Bobby. Its a very clear manifestation of the rising tide of fascism that the people are confronted with.

They are confronted with a rising tide of repression, but this repression is making the people's spirit stronger than it usually was. A good sign of this is the increasing support for the Black Panther Party.

I think also that we'll see a lot more repression here in Canada. I think that with a lot more people waking up, there'll be more repression--of Indians and of all progressive forces in Canada.

The reason that we're here is that we can see the new awakening, and also visualize the new repressions as a result of this awakening, and I think it's good that we set up some communications, set up some ties, some lasting relationships with progressive people, because it's a worldwide struggle against imperialism.

*Q. You mentioned earlier that a manifestation of the rising tide of fascism was the complete disregard for Bobby Seale's constitutional rights. Can you tell us why fascism is being implemented in the United States today?**

A. I think it would be good first if I define fascism. We define it several ways. We call it three-in-one. We say it is avaricious businessmen, politicians, and racist pig cops.

These three things make fascistic regimes work in a smooth manner. It should be understood that fascism is implemented only when the majority of the people have refused and given up completely on redressing their grievances through established politican avenues.

Clearly, when the ruling class imposes fascism it has no interest of the people in mind. I think it's a government of the pigs, for the pigs, and by the pigs. It's the type of repression the people have met with when they try to institute a government by the people, of the people, and for the people.

Q. You stated that fascism was the result of a breakdown of the ability of established political avenues to meet the needs of the people. Can you tell us something about the program of the Black Panther Party and how it related to the needs of the people?

A. We have three programs that we think are educational. One is the "breakfast for children." It's a program that feeds children free hot meals, because most of our children when they go to school are hungry. They don't have the ability to study. It's hard for anybody to learn on an empty stomach, and we feed them free.

The only prerequisite they have to have is that they be hungry. People of all races, all ethnic backgrounds, all religions, can come in and eat our breakfasts free, and we think it is more than charity. We think it's socialism.

We think it's preliminary socialism, fundamental, a way to start off, to teach people how to carry out socialism.

Also, another socialist program is our free health clinics. They do away with all the governmental rigamarole and red tape. People when they want to enter a hospital, no matter how sick they might be, no matter how dying a need or emergency, they're forced to produce papers, insurances and money on the spot. And if they don't have this in America, what we call Babylon, they will be allowed to die out in the hallway.

I think another program is our decentralization of the police. Our decentralization of the police is also educational in that the community control the police. A program where we ask all people to petition the government and demand that all police in our community be removed.

If they establish police in our community, we demand that we hire them, that we govern what they do, have the right to fire them and chastize them when they act in a manner that is not desirable to the masses of the people.

All these programs are educational. It's educational to see people being fed free, and see free health clinics when the pigs are going to the moon. It's also educational for people to try to petition for the right to elect their own policemen.

We know that petitions don't work. We know we have no redress in the government. We know all political avenues have been blocked for a long time. As a matter of fact, they have never been open.

This is a good way of showing people who still have faith that after they petition and their petition is denied, they very easily and very clearly see the fascistic machines in action.

** Editor's Note: The reference to Bobby Seale's constitutional rights has to do with his being bound, gagged and chained in the courtroom where he is on trial for "conspiracy" in 1968's Chicago disruptions around the Democratic National Convention. In addition, Seale has not been allowed to have the lawyer of his choice and has not been allowed to DEFEND himself.*

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ORGANIZE

(It is the policy of the Regina Union of High School Students to make our positions and analysis of education known to the community and to learn from the people their suggestions about resolving our problems. We hope that these articles will help people to understand the reasons why we are organizing.)

In every city in Canada high school students are organizing to change the schools they attend. Regina is no exception.

What is there in the educational system that causes students to unite into radical organizations, to form student unions, to start thinking about changes?

A student is alienated and oppressed by the system because it presents a jumble of unconnected bits of knowledge which contradict the actual experiences of people in society. Course content tells us that we are free, and then rules take away our freedom; it tells us that Canadians are rich when inflation is making it harder and harder to get along; it tells us that unions are causing the problems in the economy when our parents and our friends' parents know that without unions they would be exploited more than they already are.

Courses which contradict reality, or which have no relevance to our lives, and rules which unnecessarily restrict our freedom, cause students to organize, to take things into their own hands.

The atmosphere in the schools is irrational. For example, when a student asked a teacher to explain logically why a certain rule existed, the teacher said, "The rule exists because it is our policy." when the student asked why the rule only applied to students, the teacher said, "We are teachers and you are students, and the sooner you realize the difference the better." Arrogance causes us to organize.

Education leads us nowhere; it has no direction, and its purpose is not to teach young people to see the world the way it really is. It doesn't give us the skills and knowledge we need to cope with our environment or to survive and live a good life.

If the educational system doesn't do this, then it is not serving the students and it is not serving the people. If it doesn't do that, then it's not worthy of existing.

So students are organizing in Regina to change the system. We are organizing because of real conditions which make us organize. Some day we are going to have to take militant actions to change the system, just as workers had to do to get what they needed.

Student activists are not little brats trying to cause trouble. We are serious people trying to bring about constructive change.

OPPRESSION IN QUEBEC

LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE

The Algerian war for national liberation was fought 4,000 miles away, and Vietnam is 10,000 miles from home.

The list of national liberation struggles goes on and on, Angola, Laos, Thailand, Mozambique, Chad, South Korea, and the list goes on, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Quebec.

That's right Quebec.

For most people in Canada, at least up until 1960 when Jean Lesage led his Liberal party to victory, Quebec was seen as a quaint relic from the old days when the American continent "used to be" split up into colonies.

All very charming with people babbling in French along bucolic country lanes and the twisting streets of old-world cities: All very charming except that most of that picture is about as real as a tourist guide-book to the quaintness of Harlem or Watts.

The pastoral countryside and quiet villages of Quebec simply don't exist.

Instead numerous small and sooty industrial towns squat upon the landscape of the least agricultural province in Canada, and the unemployment rate in Montreal soars even above the 12 to 18 per cent that holds throughout the province.

All of Canada has become an extension of American capital (69 per cent of Canadian industry is controlled by American interests---over 90 per cent in many of the "dynamic" industries like automobiles), but Quebec has been doubly exploited by English-speaking Canada as a whole.

Not only does the industry of Quebec belong to the American and British interests, but it is run out of that cultural heritage.

Almost all of the jobs even blue-collar work in factories force workers to speak English since most of the management knows little French, or is "uncomfortable" using the language.

So it's not surprising that only two per cent of the English-speaking population makes the effort of learning to speak French.

Why should they bother, with statistics like that, and with the knowledge that the average salary of people who speak French is only 65 per cent of the average of people who speak English.

This realization, along with increasing hardship, inflation, umemployment and speedups, has sparked a rapidly developing movement for national liberation led at first by student radicals and now by the Front de la Liberation Populaire (FLP).

Within the last two or three years, the struggle has spread from the campuses to include large numbers of working people.

The response has come hot and heavy on two fronts.

Traditional political figures and the "oppressed" business community of Quebec have themselves picked up on the issue of cultural oppression without relating it to imperialism or the class structure, and have formed the Partie Quebecois since the last provincial election.

At the same time, the Union Nationale Bertrand government, with the aid of civic politicians, has brought down repression on the student movement, the FLP, Community councils of working people, and all other groups that have been working on the social class question as well as the national question.

Demonstrations have been outlawed. All political meetings have been banned in the community colleges.

When the FLP and others decided to demonstrate at Montreal City Hall following the recent police strike, police broke into the offices and took all leaflets and pamphlets publicizing the march.

Across English-speaking Canada, the press has been stirring up a campaign of hysteria against the Quebec people.

Headlines blare stories of Quebec "subversives" being financed by Al Fatah (the Palestinian Liberation Army), Cuba and the Black Panther Party (none of them exactly wealthy foundations)

And people who formerly accepted the impoverishment of Quebec by saying "Oh, they don't mind that kind of thing" now react with fear, confusion and hatred.

It's when it gets close to home that national liberation becomes really hard to deal with for most people.

• Workers World •

Some people think working in a library should be an interesting job.

Perhaps for a small minority of library staff-- the "Professionals"--the work is interesting, but for the large majority of clerical workers, it is just another job--and a monotonous one at that.

I worked in the main Saskatoon Public Library for a year as a clerical worker.

The clerics had a large variety of tasks, but they were all similarly dull and required no creative thought on the part of the workers.

Almost all the clerical staff at the library were women.

We typed library cards, did filing, or, worst of all, shelved cartload upon cartload of books. Because of the precise cataloguing system used in libraries, this was perhaps the most tedious and frustrating job. Each book had to be in an exact place on the particular shelf designated.

Although it is easy to see why a precise order is necessary in a library, it is hard to understand why people must spend many hours doing nothing but sorting books into an order correct to the tenth decimal place in a cataloguing system.

There is a very clear-cut system of hierarchy in any library, and this one was no exception. If you had a degree you were in, and if not you were on the bottom of the ladder. This kind of thing was never publicly spoken, but all the clerics could feel it.

The only people in the library who were really supposed to know anything at all were those with degrees. Those with special library training were supposed to know even more.

If a patron asked me where to find a certain book, I was not allowed to answer, even if I was able. This was a job for the LIBRARIANS and not for the clericals.

The whole idea of a university degree was carried to a ridiculous point. One person on the staff had all the requirements for his degree except for one or two classes. He was strictly instructed not to encroach on the territory of the professional library staff and to keep strictly to his clerical duties.

In other words, the amount of real knowledge was not what was counted -- it was the piece of paper.

A word about wages. They were terrible, but I suppose they were slightly better than those of a waitress or a gas station attendant. There was no union in the library, and to mention the word was to risk being mistrusted by everyone and possibly to lose a chance of promotion.

The clericals at the library did all the drudgery. We were also the ones who " met the public ", and we were carefully instructed on how to do that.

Of course the public is always right. I'm sure it is exactly the same thing in any store or business establishment. The customer is always right.

I can remember many Saturdays when I spent the whole eight-hour day doing nothing but checking out books. Saturday was always the busiest day at the library. In winter people would form long lines to check their books out.

It wasn't uncommon to spend the whole day pushing cards through a photo-recorder machine. Sometimes we didn't even have time to look up, we were going so fast.

I felt exactly like a machine myself after a day like that.

Not all the periods were busy, though. One of the things which irked me most about the job was that clericals weren't allowed to read, even if there was nothing else specific for them to do. Can you imagine how frustrating it is to sit in a building full of interesting books and to have to find some kind of busy work to keep yourself occupied.

To me, that was one of the main anachronisms of the whole job. On a small scale we were nothing but machines. But I suppose libraries aren't the only place where people are used like machines.

The work I did wasn't much different from work in any large office or corporation. For women, it is especially rough. They don't even have the pretense of doing creative work.

For me, one of the most significant results of working in that job was to learn how I could come home after an eight-hour day of doing absolutely no physical work and feel completely physically exhausted.

Because I was so bored and frustrated, the job simply drained all the energy out of me. I really shudder to think of the millions of women all around the world who are spending their lives being wasted in this way.

EXILES

The following is a story of an American deserter seeking political asylum in Canada. He is having difficulty achieving the necessary points to remain in Canada. If he is forced to leave Canada, a stockade will likely determine his future. This is his story.

In December 1967, at the age of sixteen, I was convicted of auto theft and sentenced to three years probation. I complied with the probation rules until August 3, 1968, when I was charged with leaving the country without informing my probation officer. On August 15 I was to turn seventeen; a person can join the military service at that age in the United States. I was given the choice of entering the service or going to jail, and I had one month to make a decision.

I enlisted in the Army and arrived at the reception station on September 12, 1968. I went through basic training and in November was transferred to Ft. Rucker, Alabama for training in aircraft maintenance. I tried to see an army psychiatrist in the hope that he would help me to get conscientious objector status, but they only made fun of me. So I went A.W.O.L. for twenty-nine days. I turned myself in and they dismissed me from aircraft school.

I was sent to Casual Company (no assigned job or station), but after two weeks I went A.W.O.L. again, this time for thirty days. I turned myself in again and was confined pending court-martial; a couple of days before my court-martial I went A.W.O.L. again.

After turning myself in for the third time, at the end of April 1969, I was put in S.P.D. (Special Processing Detachment) under restriction. I went A.W.O.L. again after about four or five days. I was caught in Denver, Colorado in July and was put in confinement at the Ft. Carson, Colorado stockade.

In the stockade I talked to a chaplain about applying for C.O. status (non-combatant). He said that I could not do so because I did not have a strong religious background. While I was A.W.O.L. I had been admitted to a civilian hospital and had received a psychiatric report saying that it would be wrong to make me kill because I was so opposed to it. But the report had no effect.

The army was going to send me through infantry training and make me go to Vietnam to kill people, no matter what it would do to me for the rest of my life.

To me the people of Vietnam do not need killing, and it would be as wrong for me to kill them as it would be for me to kill people in the U.S. The people over there do not want us there. The reason is the U.S. makes its money from such economic wars. When they pull out of Vietnam, they will just have to find another war to get into. These wars make the rich richer, while the poor and middle-class people lose their young sons.

At the end of August I got my court-martial. I volunteered to go back to duty, so they sent me through a rehabilitation center and put me in S.P.D. I went A.W.O.L. as soon as I got there and spent a couple of weeks in Denver.

On October 31, 1969 I went for an interview with a Canadian immigration officer. I could only achieve 40 points according to the standard immigration procedures, and the national immigration policy refuses permanent residence to anyone who scores fewer than 50 points. I was told that I could appeal the decision, but I also received the strong impression that the appeal would be to no avail. Even though the officer displayed fairness, the local boards are bound by the national immigration policy. Accordingly he issued me a document allowing me to remain in Canada only until November 20, 1969.

This story of a young GI in Regina is but one example of how American Deserters are turned down by Canadian Immigration. There are others in Regina with the same problem.

All across Canada young Americans are in the same situation......hundreds of them. Most will have to return to the brutal stockades and brigs unless the Canadian Immigration Department allows deserters to stay.

The Canada Immigration Act, based on a point system, is structured to channel into Canada, young educated professionals. GIs for the most part are unskilled workers.

If Deserters can expect to live in Canada some changes must be made to accomodate their social backgrounds. This means that political asylum will have to be granted to all American Deserters.

AUTHOR TO SPEAK

Dr. Edgar Friedenberg, one of the continent's foremost thinkers and writers on adolescence and youth will be speaking in Regina on Saturday, November 29. The meeting will be jointly sponsored by the Social Sciences Division and the Faculty of Education of Regina Campus.

Dr. Friedenberg is a Professor of Sociology and Education at the State University of New York in Buffalo. He was previously an associate Professor at Brooklyn College, New York, and for three years a Professor of Sociology at the University of California.

In making the announcement, Stan Rands, Acting Chairman of the Psychology Department said. "We are very glad to have been able to arrange for Dr. Friedenberg to speak to a Regina audience at the close of three days that he will be spending with the College of Education and with groups of Teachers in Saskatoon. His major interest over the past twenty years has been the study of adolescents and youth in relation to society as a whole, and in relation to schools in particular. His concern has been to narrow the generation gap by bringing about a deeper understanding of the experiences of young people in these increasingly stressful times and thus to provide better conditions for 'growing up'. We beleive that his address will be of special interest to parents of teenagers, to teachers, and to high school students."

Dr. Friedenberg's books include "The Vanishing Adolescent", "Coming of Age in America", and "The Dignity of Youth". In addition to numerous articles in educational journals in the United States, Dr. Friedenberg has recently published articles in the Canadian Journal"This Magazine is About Schools" on "The Principal's Authority" and "What the Schools Do".

The Meeting will be held in the lecture theatre-Room 210-of Regina College Building on College Avenue at 8 p.m.

QUEBEC LABOUR CONDEMNS THATCHER

The Thatcher government's labour policies were condemmed last Friday by the Quebec Federation of Labour annual meeting.

The QFL meeting endorsed a resolution supporting the striking hospital workers in Estevan.

The meeting voiced its disapproval of Thatcher's method of handling the dispute.

The QFL members were critical of the Saskatchewan government policy of not providing the local hospitals with sufficient funds to pay hospital employees.

Saskatchewan, like Quebec pay their non-professional employees the lowest possible wages.

THE BLACK PANTHERS

Subscriptions to "The Black Panther", the weekly newspaper of the Black Panther Party, are available from
2350 West Madison,
Chicago, 60612,
Illinois, U.S.A.

HOSPITAL CRISIS

(Continued from page 1)

tion for an 8.4 percent increase in wage levels.

The union accepted the board's unanimous recommendations, the but hospital still would not make a settlement, as they had been informed that the government would not cover the cost of the wage increase.

On October 24, the union struck.

Wages at St. Joseph's Hospital in Estevan start at $1.32 per hour. The average wage is $1.58 per hour. The poverty-level minimum wage is $1.25 per hour. The union is demanding a settlement similar to that in Alberta, where hospital workers start at $1.75 per hour.

Non-medical workers at 160 Quebec hospitals had threatened to strike early this month. They were granted a 28.2 percent wage increase.

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LETTERS

To The Editor:

As a Social Studies teacher I feel compelled to reply to some of the arguments presented in your recent article "High Schools Criticized." The authors seem to feel that high school Social Studies teachers always "champion conservatism" and "frown upon rebellion" when they teach historical events.

The Division Four curriculum is so wide in its scope that it includes events such as Spartacus and the slave revolt, the peasant revolts of the 16th and 17th Centuries, the French, American, and Russian revolutions, and the Cuban and Hungarian revolts.

In order for teachers to be the "champions of conservatism" they would by definition be defenders of Louis XVI, George III, Nicholas II, and Batista, etc. This is simply not the truth. I am certain that teachers' sympathies lie with the oppressed and not the oppressors.

The truth may be that some high school Social Studies teachers are not historians in the true sense of the word. Possibly they do not search out historical truth, but accept, like the student, the divine word of the textbook.

Therefore, in some cases teachers tend to accept and to pass on to students historical generalizations. These opinions are then accepted by students as the whole and complete historical truth.

The authors' charge that the textbook, *The Modern World,* by C. F. Strong supports the fascist dictatorship in Portugal reveals their lack of ability to distinguish between historical facts and historical opinion.

When Strong describes Salazar's dictatorship as "creative," this does not mean he necessarily supports Salazar's politics.

I would describe Hitler as having political genius but I am *not* sympathetic to his attempted annihilation of the Jews.

It seems that the authors in their youthful exuberance have resorted to the use of careless reasoning and trivial evidence.

--D. B. Banks
Regina

To The Editor:

Your issue dated Nov.4-11 contains many excellent items, and there are two in particular on which I should like to offer a brief appreciative comment.

The first of these is the letter of Miss Jackie Davie describing her experience in her class debate. I would very warmly congratulate her on her stand, and sincerely hope she will not allow her frustrating experience to discourage her from continuing to think for herself. The attitude she complains of has a long history behind it. The contemporaries of Father Noah were just such skeptics as Miss Davie's classmates--they thought Noah was a "propagandist," so regarded his warning, and look what happened to them!

My second comment is also one of cordial approval -- this time of the article "High Schools Criticized"for its reference to the atrocious trash which is used as a "History Textbook" in Grade 11--C.F. Strong's fatuous exercise in low quality journalism named "The Modern World." This book--and the volume "The Early Modern World" by the same author which is used in Grade X -- is an essay in mythology rather than a work of history. I have pilloried these books for years in discussion with my own students, and I know that many teachers dislike them intensely, but as far as I am aware, teachers generally do not share my own view that they are an insult to the students' intelligence and should be either discarded entirely or retained merely as museum exhibits. I hope students will follow the lead now suggested by your article and subject these textbooks to more rigorous criticism.

--Keith Sutherland
Associate Professor
of Education
University of Saskatchewan, College
of Education,
Saskatoon

community calendar

MONDAY, NOV. 24:

The Basterfield Lecture series presents Dr. W. G. Schneider, president of the National Research Council of Canada, speaking on "Science and Public Policy." 8 p.m. at the Education Bldg. Lecture Theatre, Regina Campus.

TUESDAY, NOV. 25:

"Concert 70," an overture concert, will be held at Sheldon Williams Collegiate at 8:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 26:

"Sandwiched In," a film program at the Central Library, 12:10 p.m., presents "Canon," "Between Showers," and "Cattle Ranch."

THURSDAY, NOV. 27:

Films at Norman McKenzie Gallery at 8:30 p.m., "Turner" and "Cartier-Bresson."

At Darke Hall, University of Saskatchewan Old Campus, 8 p.m., an Alberta game warden presents "Wild Splendor."

Edgar Friedenburg, a leading figure in education, will give a lecture in Room 210, Regina College Bldg., College Ave. (Old) Campus.

FRIDAY, NOV. 28:

A presentation by Medical Mission Sisters from Philadelphia at the Exhibition Auditorium, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOV. 29:

Children's programs at the Libraries begin at 10:30 a.m.: Central and Connaught, puppet shows; Albert and Regent Park, stories; Prince of Wales, films.

Pottery show and sale at Hone-James studio, 2078 Pasqua St. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., studio tours, potter's wheel, batik film, registration for classes.

The Junior Concert Society presents John Clinczak, a classical and folk guitarist, at Campbell Collegiate, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

NOV. 24-DEC. 14:

A two-man show of prints and collage by Regina artists James Ellemers and Joyce Deutscher in the Central Library Art Gallery.

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